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Message Text

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14/22
ORIGIN NEA-10

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SSM-03 COME-00 EB-07

ACDA-07 /113 R

DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARP:MSTERNER
APPROVED BY: NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

---------- 082131
R 310254Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 215450
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAS. 2 & 3 ADDED)
FROM AMBASSADOR STERNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID

SUBJECT: AE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID'S VIEWS ON COLOMBO CONFERENCE AND SOMALIA

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL I MADE ON SHAIKH ZAYID IN LONDON AUGUST 26, HE COMMENTED THAT HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER
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ARAB LEADERS AT COLOMBO REVEALED MOST DIVISIVE ARAB POLITICAL SCENE IN HIS MEMORY. EVERYBODY WAS BLAMING SOMEONE ELSE FOR WHAT WAS GOING ON IN LEBANON. AS EXPECTED, PALESTINIANS AND EGYPTIANS ATTACKED THE SYRIANS. ASAD TOOK POSITION THAT SYRIANS WERE PLAYING PURELY PASSIVE ROLE, BUT ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THEY WOULD STAY IN LEBANON TO ENSURE THERE WAS A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT THEY COULD ACCEPT. SADAT SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO SAY IN FAVOR OF THE PALESTINIANS BUT SYRIANS SHOULDN'T BE "SLAUGHTERING" THEM. QADDAFI WAS CRITICAL OF EVERYBODY. HE BITTERLY ATTACKED SADAT AND ASKED SHAIKH ZAYID HOW HE COULD BE CONTINUING TO GIVE SADAT SUCH GENEROUS ASSISTANCE IN THE LIGHT OF HIS "CRIMES". BOUMEDIENE TOLD ZAYID THAT QADDAFI HAD APPROACHED HIM WITH PROPOSAL FOR ALLIANCE TO COUNTER EGYPT-SUDAN-SAUDI BLOC BEING PROMOTED BY SADAT. WHEN ZAYID ASKED BOUMEDIENE WHETHER HE THOUGHT ALLIANCE ALONG THESE LINES WOULD WORK, LATTER REPLIED NOT REALLY, BUT IF HE PLAYED ALONG IT MIGHT RESULT IN SOME ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR ALGERIA.

2. TOWARD END OF MY CONVERSATION WITH SHAIKH ZAYID HE COMMENTED ON WEEK-LONG TRIP HE HAD MADE TO SOMALIA JUST PRIOR TO HIS ATTENDANCE OF NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AT COLOMBO. ZAYID SAID SOMALIA WAS DESPERATELY POOR COUNTRY BUT RICH IN HUMAN RESOURCES. HE WOULD LIKE TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO HELP IT. I HAD EARLIER TOLD HIM OF MY PLEASURE AT THE FACT THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD AGREED TO COOPERATE IN EXTENDING ASSISTANCE TO THIRD COUNTRIES, AND THAT WE WERE LOOKING AT SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN YEMEN AND JORDAN TO START WITH. ZAYID NOW SAID HE WOULD LIKE "TO ADD SOMALIA TO THE LIST." HE SAID SOMALIA PARTICULARLY NEEDED ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK RAISING. IF WE KNEW OF ANY US FIRMS THAT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GOING INTO PROJECTS IN THESE OR OTHER FIELDS IN SOMALIA, HE WOULD BE WILLING TO PUT UP MOST OF THE CAPITAL.

3. COMMENT: ZAYID SEEMED TO BE THINKING SPECIFICALLY OF JOINT VENTURES THAT WOULD BRING AMERICAN AGRIBUSINESS INTO SOMALIA, WITH ABU DHABI PUTTING UP CAPITAL WHICH GOS WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE DIFFICULTY FINDING. HOWEVER, HE WOULD PROBABLY BE RECEPTIVE TO SUGGESTIONS OF OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE AS WELL. KISSINGER

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